AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all previous claims with the following listing:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A cooling device~~, especially for electronic power components~~ comprising[[;]]:

a heat conducting cooling plate for the item or items to be cooled; and

a platelike distributing device arranged in the vicinity of the cooling plate for a cooling fluid, said distributing device having, on a side facing the cooling plate, a plurality of outlet openings for the cooling fluid and at least one drain opening for the cooling fluid[[,]];

wherein the distributing device has a first plate in which the outlet openings and a plurality of drain openings are uniformly distributed, a second plate and a third plate, which plates are superimposed relative to one another and of which two plates are such that one of said two plates bounds a feed channel connected with all of the outlet openings and one of said two plates bounds a drain channel connected with all of the drain openings, and wherein the outlet openings are arranged in spaced condition ~~to form~~from the cooling plate and are directed toward the cooling plate.

17. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 16, wherein the feed channel is connected with the outlet openings through tubular conductors which pass through the drain channel, and the drain openings discharge directly into the drain channel.

18. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 17, wherein the second plate is arranged between the first plate and the third plate, and the tubular conductors are formed as one piece with the second plate.

19. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 18, wherein the tubular conductors are connected with the outlet openings by plug connections.

20. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 16, wherein the outlet openings are connected directly to the feed channel and the drain openings are connected with the drain channel by tubular conductors passing through the feed channel.

21. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 20, wherein the second plate is arranged between the first plate and the third plate, and the tubular conductors are formed as one piece with the first plate.

22. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 21, wherein the tubular conductors are connected with holes passing through the second plate by a plug connection.

23. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 17, wherein the first plate is received in an opening in a cover plate of a housing which opening is covered by the cooling plate, the second plate is received in an opening in an intermediate plate of the housing, and the third plate is formed by a bottom plate of the housing.

24. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 21, wherein the third plate is provided with outlet openings directed to a second cooling plate, which outlet openings are connected with the feed channel by tubular conductors passing through the second plate, and that the third plate has drain openings leading to the drain channel.

25. (Currently amended) [[A]]The cooling device according to claim 17, wherein each cooling plate is made of metal and at least the second plate and the third plate as well as the tubular conductors are made from heat insulating thermoplastic plastic material.

26. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cooling device according to claim 16, wherein between the first plate and the second plate a fourth plate is positioned which lies on the first and second plates, the fourth plate defining

a first aperture which laterally bounds the feed channel, a fifth plate is positioned between the second plate and the third plate and lies on the second plate and the third plate the fifth plate defining a second aperture which laterally bounds the drain channel of the first aperture being further defined by toothlike branches each having associated therewith a group of outlet openings of the first plate, the fourth plate defining tongues located between neighboring branches of the first aperture each tongue having a group of drain openings, each drain opening registering with a drain opening in the first plate and a drain opening in the second plate, and that each group of drain openings of the second plate is associated with one of the branches of the second aperture.

27. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cooling device according to claim 26, wherein a sixth plate is positioned between the cooling plate and the first plate and lies on the cooling plate and the first plate, the sixth plate defining holes, and through each of said holes at least one of the groups of outlet openings and drain openings in the first plate stand in connection with the cooling plate.

28. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cooling device according to claim 26, wherein the first aperture is connected with an inlet connector through registering holes in the second, third and fifth plates and the second aperture is connected with an outlet connector through a hole in the third plate.

29. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cooling device according to claim 26, wherein the plates are sealingly connected with one another.

30. (Currently amended) [[A]] The cooling device according to claim 26, wherein at least the first to fifth plates are made of one of plastic and metal and the cooling plate is made of metal.